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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF
LAVINIA L. DOCK.

THE COLOGNE CONGRESS.

Now that the German government has decided on the new boundaries of the regular holidays, plans for the congress will go on rapidly. The date, August 4, opens the week by the sitting of the officers and executive committee, who will make plans for the next three years, consider the entrance applications of new countries for membership, and have everything in readiness for the action of the whole meeting.

As the executive committee comprises the elected officers, vice-presidents (these are the presidents for the time being of the national bodies of nurses), honorary vice-presidents (these represent countries where as yet there is no national organization) and councillors (the founders or charter members), this meeting will be the official preliminary to the congress week.

As it is the custom in Germany, as in other continental countries, to make Saturday and Sunday general holidays and times for social amenities, the nursing exhibit which is being planned will, if possible, be opened on Saturday, August 3, and in all probability the social functions will begin on Sunday, the 4th.

On Monday, August 5, the official programme of the International Council meeting will take place. This will be the day when the order of business will be carried through, new members admitted, resolutions considered, reports (on education, etc.) given, and the next meeting place voted on. It is, therefore, on Monday, August 5, that all delegates should be in their seats prepared to vote.

San Francisco has been offered as our meeting place in 1915, during the Panama celebration and World's Congresses that will gather in California in that year, and this invitation has met with general approbation. It will be a glorious time to visit the Pacific Coast; there will be special rates; there will be a great concourse of nurses' associations, and though it will be too far away for some of our European members we should draw a number from countries on the other side of the Golden Gate. Delegates must come prepared to vote for the place of meeting, and on the resolutions. That on which it is most necessary for American nurses to prepare themselves is the one on Woman Suffrage. The

International Councillors did not feel that the American delegates had been sufficiently instructed on this in 1909, as many of the delegates of the American society at Minneapolis, who gave the four delegates to London their instructions, had themselves received none. It has, therefore, been asked, in a special note sent to each American alumnæ society by the international secretary, that this resolution should be considered in each and the majority vote of each one made clear, so that we may be certain that the votes of the four American delegates to Cologne are decisive. So little was this the case in London that two American delegates, being unwilling to violate their own convictions for instructions that were so uncertain, refrained from voting at all on the resolution that women should be enfranchised.

The other resolutions so far received are on points whereon there will be complete unanimity among nurses. Sister Agnes thinks it will be well to have the Nursing Pageant early in the week, in order to excite enthusiasm at the outset. It will probably take place on Wednesday evening, the 7th.

The Pageant is exceedingly beautiful, and its setting in the magnificent Mediæval Hall of the Gürzenich will make it a really wonderful historic picture. As already said, its sequence is largely taken from the History of Nursing, and from Hygeia, goddess of Health, we shall see many of the great historic nurses, abbesses, queens and saints, knights of chivalry, and of the hospital, down to the present day. The words, written by Miss Mollett and very fine and noble, contain the plea for the highest preparation, ideals, and protection by the State for the work of nursing. Sister Agnes will translate them for the German Pageant. The picturesque ceremonial adopted by the English nurses in 1909 will be retained by the Germans and the strains of national hymns will again be heard as the nurses of various countries respond to their welcome.

ITEMS

MANY American nurses will hear with a painful sense of shock of the recent sudden death of Mrs. Kildare Treacy, Superintendent of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution, who, at the Congresses of Paris and London made warm friends of all who met her, by her sympathetic personality, keen sense of humor, and quick Irish wit. Mrs. Treacy died on the 17th of February, after a short attack of double pneumonia. She had just been chosen to represent Irish nurses at Cologne, and was full of enthusiasm for nursing matters. Mrs. Treacy had taken an active interest in the collection and preparation of material for the third volume of Nursing History, and had worked untiringly to assist

the editors on all points regarding it. The Irish nurses have lost a fellow-worker and friend whose place will long be unfilled, and the international circle will mourn another of its leading members taken in her prime. Our sincerest sympathies are offered to all her many friends.

THE nurses of Finland are very happy that their first three-years' course has been established. The superintendent of the training school of the **Maria** hospital (a municipal institution) has succeeded in her efforts to gain a three-years' graded course for her pupils.

Another interesting item from Finland is that the Finnish Nurses' Association is preparing to raise money to begin district nursing under the auspices of the association. It is planned to begin with one nurse, and then little by little enlarge the field and at the same time spread a knowledge of public school nursing. The doctor is at present in Finnish schools, but not the nurse.

Mlle. Luigi, the French nurse who had initiated the training at Béziers, has taken the position of Directrice at the Hôtel-Dieu (now a civil hospital) at Rheims. It is an immense institution of 1000 beds, and her work there will certainly be most arduous, even crushing.

THE first public school nurse in Bordeaux, Mlle. Rolland, has been placed in charge of a group of schools in the poorest quarter, and has from 1800 to 2000 children in her care. She is being supported by private generosity, part of the funds being contributed by the well-to-do pupils of a private school for girls, where for some time one of the Bordeaux nurses has been detailed to look after the health of the young girls, who now in this charming way help the children of the poor to the same intelligent oversight and teaching in hygiene.

THE third volume of History has at last gone to the printer.

ONE of the Australian states, Queensland, has passed a nurses' registration act, being the first one to do so. Australia, like the United States, must get legislation on certain lines from the state legislatures, and a short time ago the Queensland Council of the Australasian Nurses' Association learned that the government was amending the Health Act and putting into it some very inadequate provision for the registration of nurses. They immediately held a special meeting and submitted their own professional amendments to the minister in charge of the bill. The act, as passed, contained all but two of these amendments, and so is considered fairly satisfactory. It went into effect on January 1, 1912. The nurses will keep a close watch on the general administration of the bill.

Miss Garran, Secretary of the A. T. N. A. writes:

"Under Australian conditions there are certain great advantages in the work of registration being done by government, but there are also very great advantages in the present system of an independent body, which though it receives government support and approval, is yet free from political influence. With our uniform system of training, examination and registration we are not so urgently in need of state registration as in a country like England where every hospital is a law unto itself. Here there is one system of registration and one standard from end to end of the continent. State registration will to a great extent break up this uniformity, as each state will have its own law on the subject. The aim of the A. T. N. A. is in any state where a bill is introduced to bring pressure to bear so that any proposed legislation may be brought into harmony with the methods and standards of the A. T. N. A., but there are bound to be many and great differences in the laws passed by the various parliaments and in the regulations and by-laws passed by the local government boards."

Miss Garran also makes the following interesting comment:

"The tendency in Australia—a tendency which has increased during the years that women have had the suffrage—is for men and women in all political, social and professional associations to labor side by side at the work in which they are mutually interested and not to separate into opposite camps. This is especially the case with nursing, where, whether in hospital or in private work, the one cannot do without the other, and indeed from all I can gather from Australian nurses who return from their travels abroad, it seems that doctor and nurse work together on much more equal terms here than is the case in most countries. Certainly the medical men in Australia have worked hand in hand with the nurses to raise their professional training and status."

TUBERCULOSIS work is progressing in Cuba, and a cottage or "caseta" named Martina Guevera, has been built for the use of the nurses at the sanitarium. A pretty ceremonial of blessing the cottage took place under the auspices of the Cuban Nurses' Association, which sent out invitations to the event.